

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07219 211509Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W
-----065867 211525Z /53
P 211322Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7308

UNCLAS ATHENS 7219

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS CDES, GR
SUBJECT: FORMAT AND REVISED PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT RELAY NOTIFICATION
OF
DEATH TELEGRAMS

REF: STATE 209361 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S QUICK RESPONSE TO OUR RESERVATION
S
CONCERNING SUBJECT FORMAT. UNFORTUNATELY RESERVATIONS PERSIST, JEREWI
TH
OUR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 6 OF REFTTEL:

A. IN THE ABSENCE OF A FAMILY-OWNED LOT, REMAINS MUST BE BURIED IN A
"THREE-YEAR USE" LOT AND DISINTERMENT AFTER THAT TIME IS MANDATORY.

B. PERMANENT LOTS MAY BE PURCHASED AT TIME OF DEATH AT A MINIMUM COST
OF \$1,000 IN THE SUBURBS OF ATHENS AND BETWEEN \$1,200 AND \$5,300 IN
THE ATHENS AREA. A SMALL ANNUAL FEE MUST BE PAID FOR MAINTENANCE OF
THE LOT, OR, AS WE ARE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND, THE CEMETERY MAY MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS ON ITS OWN TO RESELL IT.

C. DISINTERED REMAINS ARE PLACED IN A SMALL INDIVIDUAL TIN CONTAINER
WHICH IN TURN IS PLACED IN AN INDIVIDUAL WOODEN BOX. SUCH BOXES ARE
KEPT IN A MORTUARY CHAPEL FOR A SMALL ANNUAL FEE, APPROXIMATELY \$10.
IF THIS IS NOT PAID, THE REMAINS ARE TRANSFERRED TO A COMMON OSSUARY.
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D. THE APPROXIMATE COST FOR THE TRANSFER OF REMAINS IS \$35.00.

3. ALL REPORTS OF DEATH INVOLVING LOCAL BURIAL IN A TEMPORARY SITE
DONE AT THIS POST NOT THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT.

2. WE ARE UNSURE THAT DEPARTMENT MEANS BY "DIFFICULTIES" RE DIDINTERM

ENT.

ONE CONSUL WAS RECENTLY CONFRONTED BY AN OUTRAGED AMCIT, WAIVING THE FOREARM OF HIS DECEASED FATHER, AND CLAIMING THAT, AT THE DISINTERMENT, THE MORTUARY OFFICIAL HAD ATEEMPTED TO SATEAL A PLATINUM PLAT INSERTED INTO THE BONE FOLLOWING A W.W.88 SCHRAPNEL WOUND. HE DEMANDED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING THE BONE THROUGH CUSTOMS. WHILE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THIS CASE REMAINS FRESHEST IN OUR MINDS, MANY BEREAVED RELATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED DISMAY OR WORSE UPON LEARNING OF THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT.

3. IN PLACING EMPHASIS ON THE OPTION OF LOCAL BURIAL, EMBASSY WILL POINT OUT TO THE BEREABED FAMILY THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT IF A PERMANENT SITE IS NOT PURCHASED.

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